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PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

#10/IDS

In re application of

Docket No: Q65241

Shinichi HARA

Appln. No.: 09/894,008

Group Art Unit: 3752

Confirmation No.: 5699

Examiner: HWU, DAVIS D

Filed: June 29, 2001

For: CLEANING NOZZLE AND CLEANING APPARATUS

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
UNDER 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98

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OCT 02 2003

TECHNOLOGY CENTER R3700

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, Applicant hereby notifies the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office of the documents which are listed on the attached PTO/SB/08 A & B (modified) form and/or listed herein and which the Examiner may deem material to patentability of the claims of the above-identified application.

One copy of each of the listed documents is submitted herewith.

The present Information Disclosure Statement is being filed after either a Final Office Action, Notice of Allowance, or an action that otherwise closes prosecution in the application (whichever is earlier), but before payment of the Issue Fee, and therefore Applicant is submitting herewith a check for the fee of \$180.00 under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p), and a Statement Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e).

The present Information Disclosure Statement is being filed thirty days or fewer from the

communication from the European Patent Office and a Statement Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.704(d) is

10/02/2003 VASFAV1 00000059 09894008

00 FD:0008 attached. 180.00

In compliance with the concise explanation requirement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)(3) for foreign language documents, Applicant encloses herewith a copy of a Communication from the European Patent Office in a counterpart application citing such documents, together with an English-language version (if not already included) of that portion of the Communication indicating the degree of relevance found by the foreign patent office. Applicants note that DE 1036497, DE 4120613, US 5,520,331, US 5,529,242, US 5,509,849, US 4,134,547, and US 4,817,342, which are also cited in the Communication from the European Patent Office, have previously been submitted to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office.

The submission of the listed documents is not intended as an admission that any such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application. Applicant does not waive any right to take any action that would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove any listed document as a competent reference against the claims of the present application.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account. A duplicate copy of this paper is attached.

Respectfully submitted,



Timothy P. Cremen
Registration No. 50,855

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WASHINGTON OFFICE

23373

CUSTOMER NUMBER

Date: September 26, 2003



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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.704(d)

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

The undersigned hereby states, upon information and belief:

That each item of information contained in the Information Disclosure Statement filed concurrently herewith was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application, and, to the knowledge of the undersigned after making a reasonable inquiry, that the communication was not received by any individual designated in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(c) more than thirty days prior to the filing of said Information Disclosure Statement.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: September 26, 2003